

REMARKS

It is understood that the final rejection is automatically withdrawn upon the filing of the subject RCE application. Entry of the previously filed, but unentered Amendment After Final Rejection has been requested with the transmittal for this RCE. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application based on the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the above amendments, claims 1-5 and 7-12 will remain pending.

In view of the Examiner's statement that amended claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 8 and 10-12 overcame the prior art rejection, it is believed that these claims, which are in compliance with 35 USC 112, are in condition for allowance.

In particular, in order to remove the Section 112 rejection, the term "unfilled" is deleted from all claims in which it appears, directly or by dependency.

Claim 3 is amended by inserting the particle size limitation previously inserted into the claims 1, 8, 11 and 12. Accordingly, claim 3 is also believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claim 4, which was also free of the prior art is rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, claim 4 is also believed to be in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, all pending claims are believed to be in form for allowance, and such action is hereby solicited. If any point remains in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Attached is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached Appendix is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made".

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure: Appendix

APPENDIX: VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

The following claims are amended:

1. (Four times Amended) An uncoated [and unfilled] acrylic polymer product obtained from an acrylic composition comprising at least 70 % w/w of the residues of at least one polymerizable acrylic monomer, 0.2 – 5 % w/w of a finely divided compound having a particle size between 1 and 50 nm and comprising at least one oxide selected from silicon, titanium, zirconium and aluminum oxides, and 0.2-25 % w/w of at least one linking compound which is miscible with said polymerizable acrylic monomer and which is capable of bonding to the surface of the oxide compound.

3. (Three Times Amended) An uncoated [and unfilled] acrylic polymer product obtained from an acrylic composition comprising at least 70 % w/w of the residues of at least one polymerizable acrylic monomer, 0.2 – 5 % w/w of a finely divided compound having a particle size between 1 and 50 nm and comprising at least one oxide selected from silicon, titanium, zirconium and aluminum oxides, and 0.2-25 % w/w of at least one linking compound which is miscible with said polymerizable acrylic monomer and which is capable of bonding to the surface of the oxide compound, wherein the linking compound comprises a monofunctional or polyfunctional acrylate or methacrylate compound which additionally contains a polar group.

4. (Twice Amended) An uncoated acrylic polymer [A] product [as claimed in claim 3,] obtained from an acrylic composition comprising at least 70 % w/w of the residues of at least one polymerizable acrylic monomer, 0.2 – 5 % w/w of a finely divided compound comprising at least one oxide selected from silicon, titanium, zirconium and aluminum oxides, and 0.2-25 % w/w of at least one linking compound which is miscible with said polymerizable acrylic monomer and which is capable of bonding to the surface of the oxide compound, wherein the linking compound is selected from hydroxyethylmethacrylate, hexanedioldiacrylate or tripropylglycolmethacrylate.

5. (Four times amended) An uncoated [and unfilled] acrylic polymer product obtained from an acrylic composition comprising at least 70 % w/w of the residues of at least one polymerizable acrylic monomer, 0.2 – 5 % w/w of a finely divided oxide compound and 0.2-25 % w/w of at least one linking compound which is miscible with said polymerizable acrylic monomer and which is capable of bonding to the surface of the oxide compound, wherein the finely divided oxide compound comprises colloidal silica.

8. (Four times Amended) An uncoated [and unfilled] acrylic polymer product obtained from a polymerizable composition comprising at least 70 % w/w of at least one polymerizable acrylic monomer, 0.2 – 5 % w/w of a finely divided compound having an average particle size between 1 and 50 nm and comprising at least one oxide selected from silicon, titanium, zirconium and aluminum oxides, and 0.2-25 % w/w of at least one linking compound which is miscible with said polymerizable acrylic monomer and which is capable of bonding to the surface of the oxide compound.

End of Appendix